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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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## **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)**

Enclosed is an Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO/SB/08A listing documents which may be material to the patentability of this application and/or for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission that any of the listed documents constitutes prior art, nor as an admission against interest in any manner.

Copies of the references were previously cited by and/or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in related Application No. 10/173,903, filed June 17, 2002 (the "prior application"). Copies of the foreign references are attached hereto for the Examiner's convenience.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1017.

It is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement and the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A be considered and acknowledged by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application, be made of record therein, and that the listed documents be cited in the issued patent.

Respectfully submitted,

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March 8, 2004  
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CAJ/JDS:ccr/jds  
Enclosures

Form PTO/SB/08A				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Application Number</b>	Not Yet Assigned
				<b>Filing Date</b>	Herewith
				<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Hiromichi Ishibashi
				<b>Group Art Unit</b>	Not Yet Assigned
				<b>Examiner Name</b>	Not Yet Assigned
<b>Sheet</b>	1	of	1	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	10407-23U1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS				
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**\*ABSTRACT ONLY**

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Exr Initials	Include Name of first Author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (where appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), volume-issue number(s), page(s), date (in parentheses). If a book, also include publisher and city and/or county where published.		T <sub>1</sub>

<b>Examiner Signature</b>		<b>Date Considered</b>	
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